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Idea \* \* \* a League of Nations \* \* \* might be possible" (page 170); "The ruling classes still deride the American Idea or parody it in terms of the French Declaration of the Rights of Man" (page 165).

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LEONARD D. WHITE.

OCCASIONAL PAPERS AND ADDRESSES OF AN AMERICAN LAWYER. By Henry W. Taft. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1920. Pp. xxvi, 331.

Mr. Taft's book is made up of a collection of papers and addresses dealing with questions at the time of more or less public interest. They naturally classify themselves as those having a peculiar interest for lawyers because they deal with matters having a definite relation to their profession, such as are of a political nature, and a few of a more general character. Papers of the first class plead for high ideals for those who make and those who are engaged in the administration of the law and give evidence of having emanated from one earnestly interested in the maintenance of those ideals. Those of the second class show their author to be a citizen first and of the first rank—one interested in the welfare of the state and devoted to its service. A "patriot" we would have called him a decade ago, and meant to praise, before "dying for one's country" had begun to fade in the light of that larger phrase, "sacrifice for the world." It must be said that the matter is not peculiarly original, nor is much of it such as to give promise of permanently commanding, in a large way, public interest.

The author tells us in his preface that he is led to the publication of this book by reason of having encountered difficulties "in collecting addresses of my father delivered three-quarters of a century ago." Somebody, in what would seem to have some ear-marks of a lucid interval, said something to the effect that there are two reasons only which justify one in writing a book: assuming the matter he would say is what the world ought to know, it should be true either that it has not been said or that the author can say it better than any other has said it. We fancy this was Carlyle somewhere in his "Sartor Resartus." Our copy has been loaned (we thought it was a loan at the time) to one of those pathological friends who suffer from amnesia, or we would verify this—if we could. Is it possible that our psuedo (if so it should turn out) Carlyle is too narrow in his limitations? For what would he have us use our bookstacks?

V. H. LANE.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HAGUE PEACE CONFERENCES. Translation of the Official Texts. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. New York: Oxford University Press. 1920-21. The Conference of 1899. Pp. xxi, 883. The Conference of 1907. Three volumes; pp. xv, 703; lxxxii, 1086; xci, 1162. Index Volume. Pp. viii, 272.

There has been a great deal of loose talking and writing about the International Peace Conferences held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907. We have heard extravagant praise and excessive censure. On the one hand, it has



been pointed out that these Conferences created and perfected the so-called Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague and laid the foundations for a real international court of justice. On the other hand, we have been reminded that by far the greater part of their energies were spent in an attempt to revise and codify the laws of war and neutrality, thus creating a vain phantasm which was certain to vanish in the ugly heat of war. The Conferences have been extolled as marking "an epoch in the history of international relations" and denounced as mere shams bringing forth "a progeny of shams." Whatever the truth may be—it is safe to say that it lies somewhere between the extremes—the printed record is now available to everyone. Instead of resorting to the four ponderous tomes of the original, printed in the official French, the reader or student may now refer to much more convenient volumes in English translation. The reviewer has sampled the translation at random. It appears to have been satisfactorily done. The indexes of the original volumes, notoriously inadequate, have been greatly enlarged and expanded, thus making the mass of varied materials much more accessible than it has been hitherto. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has again earned the gratitude of all who are interested in international relations. The appearance of the translation is especially timely because of the recent suggestion, which seems to have been taken seriously in some quarters, that President Harding's promise of an association of nations may be fulfilled by reviving The Hague Peace Conferences.

EDWIN D. DICKINSON.